

PROGRAM TITLE: FACTORY SUPPORT

OBJECTIVE: Investigate new approaches to existing processes and provide technical support and test data as they are requested by Manufacturing.

PROGRAM APPROACH AND TIMING:

A. Vertical Steam Tube Processing

Assist Manufacturing in applications using VST processing (e.g. pre-ordering reject cigarettes, tobacco beetle sterilization, etc.).

1st-4th Qtr.

B. Fluidized Bed Drying

Assist Manufacturing in evaluating fluidized bed drying of burley strip. Determine if a pilot plant installation is justified.

1st-4th Qtr.

C. Rotary Dryer for Burley Strip

Evaluate drying burley in a rotary dryer by checking drying uniformity and subjectives.

2nd-4th Qtr.

D. Filling Power Studies

Evaluate subjectives on tobacco dried in a high steam, closed loop dryer and also tobacco having high feed moistures (~27% OV).

3rd-4th Qtr.

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